

Maria Anna Vrakas

Painter | vrakasmarianna@gmail.com

b. Thessaloniki, Greece 2003; lives and works in Los Angeles, California

EDUCATION

2025 **BA Visual & Media Arts Practice and Chemistry**, University of Richmond, VA, USA

2024 **Language & Culture**, IES Abroad Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

May 2023 – Aug 2023

Art Teacher, Greek Children's Village, Filyro, Greece

- Led creative engagement activities for the orphaned children who sought an artistic escape towards healing.

Aug 2022 – Apr 2023

Greek Teacher, Saints Constantine & Helen Church, Richmond, VA

- Taught Greek language to primary school children focusing on student-centered learning for optimal impact.

EXHIBITIONS

April 2025 – May 2025

Natural Art, Keller Art & Art History Gallery, University of Richmond, VA

- Solo exhibition of paintings created with natural pigments sourced from Greece, integrating Japanese techniques to explore materials and artistic process.

April 2025 – May 2025

Space Between, Keller Art Gallery, University of Richmond, VA

- Group exhibition, showcasing two paintings from the *Coordinates* series, *Ikigai* and *Metaxy*.

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

April 2025

“**40th Arts & Sciences Student Symposium**” by Sandra Shelley

Nov 2023

The Virginia Literary Review - Fall 2023, University of Virginia

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

April 2023 – April 2025

Art & Art History Book Award, University of Richmond

- Awarded in recognition of dedication and scholarship in the Art & Art History program.

Feb 2024 – Aug 2024

Arts & Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, Richmond VA

- Ongoing pigment-making project focused on the exploration of new mediums derived from natural resources, with a specific concentration on geographic and historical identity.

Sep 2021 – Aug 2022

FAITH Scholarship for Excellence in STEM

- Awarded scholarship for excellence in STEM, in recognition of academic achievement and commitment to furthering education in science while promoting values of Hellenism.

February 2022

Phi Eta Sigma Honors, Richmond, VA

- Received recognition for academic excellence for first-year students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Artistic Skills: Gallery Installation, Canvas & Material Preparation, Adobe Creative Suit: Photoshop, Premiere Pro

Languages: English & Greek (Native), Japanese (Advanced), Spanish (Intermediate), French (Intermediate)